

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
WALTER M. DICKIE, M. D., DIRECTOR

Weekly



Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

**Undulant Fever
a Serious Disease.**

Undulant or malta fever was made reportable in California in 1927 and in the WEEKLY BULLETIN of July 30, 1927, there was published an article pertaining to this disease written by Dr. K. F. Meyer. While comparatively few cases of the disease have been reported in California, the experience of health officers in other states would indicate the necessity for maintaining a watchful attitude toward this communicable disease. The following statement issued recently by the United States Public Health Service emphasizes the importance of regarding undulant fever as a serious problem in public health:

"Undulant fever, a disease contracted from cattle and hogs which are infected with contagious abortion, is being more widely recognized as a problem of considerable importance from a public health standpoint. A number of cases of this disease have been reported from various states.

The disease of contagious abortion is quite prevalent among cattle and hogs throughout the country. Persons who drink raw milk from infected cattle or who handle hogs or cattle that are infected are likely to contract the disease. The name, "undulant fever," is applied to the disease because the attacks of fever come in waves or undulations. The

disease was first recognized on the island of Malta in the Mediterranean, and it was thought for a time that it was spread only through the milk of goats. It is now known, however, that the disease may be contracted from cattle and hogs. The disease is not only disabling but extremely chronic in duration. The patient may be ill for two or three years before any improvement is noted.

Important studies made by Miss Alice C. Evans, a bacteriologist of the United States Public Health Service, have shown the relation between this condition in human beings and contagious abortion in cattle. In certain states it has been said that undulant fever is of greater importance from the standpoint of public health than is typhoid fever. Many cases are contracted from infected milk. Fortunately, however, efficient pasteurization readily destroys any of the germs of this disease which may be present in milk. The chief precautions, therefore, are the use of pasteurized milk and care when coming in contact with animals known or suspected to be infected with contagious abortion. In a series of cases of undulant fever recently studied among adults living on a farm there were 39 males and 6 females; 6 of the male cases are known to have derived their infection from hogs."



Better to be driven out from among men
than to be disliked of children.—R. H. Dana.

Los Angeles County Makes High Health Score.

The highest efficiency score in its health work and at the lowest cost per capita of any leading city in the United States, are the high lights cited in the completed survey of the activities of the Los Angeles county health department made under the auspices of the bureau of efficiency of Los Angeles county by Dr. Ira V. Hiscock for the administrative committee of the American Public Health Association, assisted by Efficiency Engineer Henry P. Scoville.

The score for the health activities of Los Angeles county health department is 82 points. This is two points higher than that made by any one of the 26 leading cities recently surveyed by the committee.

"Experience has demonstrated that public health is purchasable and within natural limitations a community may determine its own death rate," the survey explains in summary.

"In certain phases of public health work the county health department has done pioneer work which is all the more creditable because of having been accomplished under official auspices.

"The preschool service of Los Angeles County is probably superior to that of any other county department in the United States," the survey cites.

A score of 100 per cent was attained by the county health department in its preschool work. The number of preschool age children coming under its jurisdiction is given at 46,000.

Outstanding gains made in lowering the infant mortality in Los Angeles county during the past ten years are also cited. That of the white race is reduced from 69.98 in 1916, to 45.98 in 1927 per 100,000; of the Japanese from 56.48 to 41.66, and of the Mexican from 284.97 to 96.92 during the same period. The reduction of Mexican infant mortality to one-third is cited as "a most remarkable reduction."

"The county health department operates under the board of supervisors through a committee of public welfare of which J. H. Bean is chairman and to which he has rendered valuable service.

"The present health officer, Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, has held office continuously since the department has been established. He is primarily responsible for the organization and growth of the department since that time, although considerable credit should also be given to the board of supervisors for their support of the program.

"Los Angeles County has developed a notable health center program," the survey concludes.

Dr. Pomeroy Issues New Health Bulletin.

Health News is the name of a new publication issued monthly by the Los Angeles County health department and the Los Angeles County Public Health Association. Its slogan is "Health Is Wealth," which is also the title of the leading editorial by Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer, published in the first issue of January, 1929. The appearance of the new bulletin, form and typography are excellent. The material used in the first issue is interesting and is well arranged. It aims to present health educational material in news form, as well as to serve as a chronicle of current health problems and projects in Los Angeles County. The standards set in *Health News* are exceptionally high, and the Los Angeles County health department and the Los Angeles County Public Health Association are to be congratulated upon the excellence and merits of their new publicity organ.

Prenatal Care and Infant Mortality.

For the first eleven months of 1928, San Joaquin County had an infant mortality rate of 58.5 per 1000 births. An unusually large number of infant deaths during the last month of the year brought the infant mortality rate for the full year up to 67.4. Dr. John J. Sippy, health officer, expresses keen regret at the failure to reduce the infant death rate to a lower point and indicates that there is a possibility that more prenatal care and instruction might have saved some of these infant lives. His statement follows:

Until November 30th, our deaths of infants under one year of age had achieved a rate of only 58.5 per 1000 births. But 19 such deaths during December ruined a promising record, and the final 1928 rate proved to be 67.4. By comparison, the rate in 1923 was 70; in 1924, 59.3; in 1925, 67.7; in 1926, 58.3 and in 1927, 62.4.

The 1928 rate in Stockton was 65.1 as against 48.3 in 1927.

Of the 111 deaths, 5 or 4.5 per cent were due to acute contagions, viz: 1 to scarlet fever, 2 to whooping cough, 1 to erysipelas, and 1 to tetanus; 2 deaths were ascribed to syphilis; 27 or 24.3 per cent to acute respiratory infections; 8 or 7.2

per cent to diarrhoea and enteritis; 69 or 55 per cent to congenital or natal causes; and 8 to all other causes.

By age periods deaths were distributed as follows:

Less than 1 day--	39	2 to 3 months---	9
2 to 7 days-----	14	4 to 6 months---	9
8 to 30 days-----	21	7 to 12 months---	19

The fact that 55 per cent of infants die from congenital defects and natal causes, and that 66.7 per cent failed to survive thirty days (35.2 per cent less than 1 day) makes us feel somewhat helpless. Possibly, more prenatal instruction and care is the answer, but more careful analysis is needed for even such an answer.

At present, the figures give us little satisfaction. The only gratification we have is a further decline in the deaths from diarrhea and enteritis in children under two years of age (in fact, all such deaths occurred in children under 1 year) giving a rate of 7.6 as against 10.7 in 1927, and a decline in maternal mortality from 6.7 per 1000 living births in 1927 to 6.08 in 1928. Declines in both causes have been consistent for the past six years—the rate from diarrhea and enteritis in 1922 having been 33.3 and that of maternal mortality, 20.6.



Increase Noted In Epidemic Meningitis.

Because of the increased prevalence of epidemic meningitis, the state regulations for the control of this unusually severe and fatal disease are reprinted herewith:

EPIDEMIC MENINGITIS.

The minimum period of isolation within the meaning of this regulation shall be for two weeks after the onset.

1. *Infective agent*—Meningococcus.
2. *Source of infection*—Discharges from the nose and mouth of infected persons. Clinically recovered cases, and healthy persons who have never had the disease but who have been in contact with cases or other carriers, act as carriers and are commonly found, especially during epidemics. Such healthy carriers are not uncommonly found independent of epidemic prevalence of the disease.

3. *Modes of transmission*—By direct contact with infected persons and carriers, and indirectly by contact with articles freshly soiled with the nasal and mouth discharges of such persons.

4. *Incubation*—Two to ten days; commonly, seven.

5. *Period of communicability*—During the clinical course of the disease and until the specific organism is no longer present in the nasal and mouth discharges of the patient. The same applies to healthy carriers so far as effects persistence of infectious discharges.

6. *Methods of control.*

(A) Isolation of infected persons until 14 days after onset of disease.

(B) *Quarantine*—None.

(C) Concurrent disinfection of discharges from the nose and mouth and of articles soiled therewith.

General measures.

Search for carriers among families and associates of recognized cases by bacteriological examination of posterior nares of all contacts.

Education as to personal cleanliness and the necessity of avoiding contact and droplet infection.

Prevention of overcrowding such as is common in living quarters, transportation conveyances, working places, and places of public assembly.

Epidemic Measures.

Increase the separation of individuals and the ventilation in living and sleeping quarters for such groups of people as are especially exposed to infection because of their occupations or some necessity of living conditions.

Carriers should be quarantined until the nasal and pharyngeal secretions are proved by bacteriological examinations to be free from the infecting organism.



The first wealth is health. Sickness is poor spirited, and can not serve anyone; it must husband its resources to live. But health a fullness answers its own ends; and has to spare, runs over, and inundates the neighborhoods and creeks of other men's necessities.—Emerson.



MORBIDITY *

Diphtheria.

49 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Oakland 4, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 3, Compton 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 15, Monrovia 1, Whittier 1, Bell 4, San Diego 1, San Francisco 6, Daly City 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 2, Sunnyvale 1, Petaluma 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 1, Ventura County 2.

Measles.

22 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles 4, Modoc County 1, Monterey County 1, King City 2, Coronado 1, San Diego 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 2, Yolo County 4.

* From reports received on January 7th and 8th for week ending January 5th.

Scarlet Fever.

190 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 2, Oakland 13, Colusa County 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 13, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 40, San Fernando 1, Whittier 2, Hawthorne 2, Bell 2, Madera County 2, Monterey County 1, Monterey 1, Anaheim 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 13, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 11, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin County 4, Lodi 1, Manteca 2, Stockton 15, Santa Clara County 5, Gilroy 2, San Jose 8, Watsonville 1, Solano County 4, Sonoma County 3, Petaluma 4, Stanislaus County 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura 1, Yolo County 1, Yuba County 1.

Smallpox.

12 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 2, Kern County 2, Redlands 1, San Francisco 1, Siskiyou County 1, Tulare County 1, California 1.

Typhoid Fever.

5 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles 2, National City 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Whooping Cough.

155 cases of whooping cough have been

reported, as follows: Oakland 8, Los Angeles County 18, Azusa 1, Burbank 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 38, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 1, Monterey County 5, King City 14, Salinas 11, Orange County 5, Anaheim 10, Brea 2, Sacramento County 2, Redlands 3, San Diego County 4, National City 4, San Diego 3, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 1, Lodi 1, Stockton 1, San Jose 5, Tehama County 1, Lindsay 4, Yolo County 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

11 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 3, Pomona 1, Merced County 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 4, Yolo County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

Oakland reported one case of poliomyelitis.

Undulant Fever.

Los Angeles reported one case of undulant fever.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

Oakland reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

Fullerton reported one case of coccidioidal granuloma.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1929				1928			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 5 received by Jan. 8	Week ending			Reports for week ending Jan. 7 received by Jan. 10
	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29		Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botulism.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coccidioidal Granuloma.....	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox.....	257	125	110	177	260	243	203	410
Diphtheria.....	88	92	57	49	161	171	146	125
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
Encephalitis (Epidemic).....	2	1	0	1	0	0	5	1
Food Poisoning.....	0	4	0	0	0	6	1	3
German Measles.....	13	1	7	10	72	106	40	196
Gonococcus Infection.....	119	81	70	99	110	90	68	125
Influenza.....	7,385	3,141	1,561	1,254	28	20	27	33
Jaundice (Epidemic).....	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Leprosy.....	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malaria.....	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Measles.....	16	19	19	22	51	35	42	74
Meningitis (Epidemic).....	19	14	15	11	2	3	2	5
Mumps.....	213	139	98	160	92	69	65	90
Paratyphoid Fever.....	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Pneumonia (Lobar).....	200	131	88	99	57	48	187	79
Poliomyelitis.....	4	3	1	1	22	12	16	9
Rabies (Animal).....	5	19	17	11	13	5	19	3
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	219	185	150	190	191	192	172	159
Smallpox.....	27	18	19	12	27	14	20	18
Syphilis.....	162	113	89	127	204	85	109	123
Tetanus.....	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0
Trachoma.....	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Trichinosis.....	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Tuberculosis.....	184	216	145	186	186	138	156	117
Typhoid Fever.....	6	5	8	5	7	13	9	6
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undulant Fever.....	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	150	75	71	155	83	56	60	93
Totals.....	9,073	4,388	2,529	2,576	1,567	1,313	1,356	1,669

CALIFORNIA STATE PRINTING OFFICE